IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Hardarshan S. Valia et al.

Application No. : 09/846,829

Filed : May 1, 2001

Title : METHOD FOR PRODUCING BLAST FURNACE COKE

THROUGH COAL COMPACTION IN A NON-RECOVERY OR

HEAT RECOVERY TYPE OVEN

Group/Art Unit : 1797

Examiner : N. Bhat

Docket No. : ISP0086

Commissioner for Patents P. O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PETITION TO WITHDRAW HOLDING OF ABANDONMENT (37 CFR 1.181(a))

Dear Sir:

Applicants hereby petition that the Notice of Abandonment, dated August 13, 2008, of the above-identified application be withdrawn.

It is submitted that a Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review was timely filed with the Notice of Appeal on December 13, 2007, as evidenced by the following documents, copies of which are attached hereto:

- 1. Transmittal Form, dated December 13, 2007;
- 2. Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 CFR 1.136(a), dated December 13, 2007;
 - 3. Notice of Appeal, dated December 13, 2007;
 - 4. Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review, dated December 13, 2007; and
- 5. Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt indicating receipt by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on December 13, 2007.

Accordingly, the application has been improperly held abandoned.

If any fees are required in connection with this Petition, please charge any amount due to Deposit Account No. 02-0387, Baker & Daniels.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerard T. Gallagher

Reg. No. 39,679

Customer Number 27187
Baker & Daniels
202 South Michigan Street
Suite 1400
South Bend, IN 46601

Telephone: 574-234-4149

Fax: 574-239-1900

PTO/SB/21 (09-06)

Unde	r the Pape	erwork Ro	eduction Act of 1995	, no persons	s are re	U. equired to respond to a	S. Pa	tent and T	rademark	Office; I	through 03/31/2007, OMB J.S. DEPARTMENT OF C displays a valid OMB cont	OMMERCE
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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

PTO/SB/22 (12-07)
Approved for use through 12/31/2007. OMB 0651-0031
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARMENT OF COMMERCE
Under the paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless if displays a valid OMB control number.

PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME UNDER 37 CFR 1.136(a)				Docket Number (Optional)			
	(Fees	FY 2008 pursuant to the Consolidated Appropriations A	ISP0086				
Apı	plication	Number 09/846,829		Filed May 1, 200	1		
For	METHO	D FOR PRODUCING BLAST FURNACE COKE THE	ROUGH COAL COMPACTION IN	I A NON-RECOVERY OR H	HEAT RECOVERY TYPE OVEN		
Art	Unit 1	764		Examiner Nina Bhat			
Thi app	s is a recollication.	quest under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.1	36(a) to extend the perio	d for filing a reply in t	he above identified		
The	e request	ed extension and fee are as follows (che	eck time period desired a	nd enter the appropria	ate fee below):		
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İ		One month (37 CFR 1.17(a)(1))	\$120	\$60	\$		
		Two months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(2))	\$460	\$230	\$		
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		Four months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(4))	\$1640	\$820	\$		
		Five months (37 CFR 1.17(a)(5))	\$2230	\$1115	\$		
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	Payme	nt by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is	attached.				
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	Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.						
la	m the	applicant/inventor.					
	assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71.						
	Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed (Form PTO/SB/96). attorney or agent of record. Registration Number						
	attorney or agent under 37 CFR 1.34.						
Registration/number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34							
	·	AMOM 7 11/1		December 13	3, 2007		
		Signatuye			Date		
	Thomas J. Mauéh			574-234-41 4 9			
	Typed or printed name Telephone Number						
NOTE	NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below.						
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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.136(a). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 6 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

PTO/\$B/31 (09-06)

Approved for use through 03/31/2007. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

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NOTICE OF APPEAL FROM THE EXAMINER TO)		(
THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERE	NCES	ISP0086			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted	In re Applicat				
to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to	Hardarshan	S. Valia et al.			
"Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-	Application N	umber	Filed		
1450" [37 CFR 1.8(4)] E-files on December 13, 2007	09/846,829		May 1, 2001		
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Typed or printed Thomas J. Mauch	1764		Nina Bhat		
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Applicant hereby appeals to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences	s from the last o	lecision of the exa	miner		
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by half, and the resulting fee is:			\$		
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Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.					
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A petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) (PTO/SB/22) is enclosed.					
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This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 41.31. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11, 1.14 and 41.6. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Docket No. ISP0086 Customer No. 27187

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):

Hardarshan S. Valia et al.

Application No.:

09/846,829

Filed:

May 1, 2001

Title:

METHOD FOR PRODUCING BLAST FURNACE COKE THROUGH

COAL COMPACTION IN A NON-RECOVERY OR HEAT

RECOVERY TYPE OVEN

Group/Art Unit:

1764

Examiner:

Nina Bhat

Docket No.:

ISP0086

MAIL STOP A/F Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

NOTICE OF APPEAL

Dear Sir:

Applicant hereby appeals to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences from the final Office Action mailed June 14, 2007, which finally rejected the pending claims of the above-identified application. Applicant submits herewith the fee required by 37 C.F.R. §41.20(b)(1) and a Pre-Appeal Brief. If the enclosed remittance is insufficient, please charge any additional amount required to Baker & Daniels' Deposit Account No. 02-0387 (26041.50057).

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER, & DAMELS LLP

Thomas J./Mauch, Reg. No. 56,686

Docket No. ISP0086 Customer No. 27187

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):

Hardarshan S. Valia et al.

Application No.:

09/846,829

Filed:

May 1, 2001

Title:

METHOD FOR PRODUCING BLAST FURNACE COKE THROUGH

COAL COMPACTION IN A NON-RECOVERY OR HEAT

RECOVERY TYPE OVEN

Group/Art Unit:

1764

Examiner:

Nina Bhat

Docket No.:

ISP0086

MAIL STOP A/F Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed June 14, 2007, Applicants submit this Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review, in conjunction with the enclosed Notice of Appeal. No amendments to the claims are submitted with this request. Accordingly, the claims stand pending in the form set forth in Applicants' Response to Office Action filed March 22, 2007.

Applicants request review of the currently pending application for the reasons set forth herein. Applicants believe the Examiner has made a clear error in rejection the claims based upon the prior art of record.

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-18 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1-3, 5-9 and 14-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. Claim 13 has been allowed, and the Examiner objects to claims 10-12 as including allowable subject matter but depending from a rejected base

claim. In rejecting the claims, the Examiner relies upon two prior art references, U.S. Patent No. 6,059,932 to Sturgulewski (hereinafter referred to as "Sturgulewski") and U.S. Patent No. 6,290,494 to Barkdoll (hereinafter referred to as "Barkdoll").

Of the pending claims, claims 1, 7 and 14 represent the only rejected independent claims. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejects these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) based upon the disclosures of Sturgulewski and Barkdoll.

The Rejection of Claim 7 Represents a Clear Error

Claim 7 claims a method of producing coke using a non-recovery type oven. The claimed method includes, in part, the steps of disposing a volume of coal into a non-recovery type oven; heating the volume of coal to produce a coke mass; moving the coke mass from the oven; and quenching the coke mass. In the Office Action, the Examiner never details the manner in which either Barkdoll or Sturgulewski anticipate claim 7. For example, on pages 2 and 3 of the Final Office Action, the Examiner fails to set forth which portion of Barkdoll specifically discloses quenching. On pages 3 through 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner described the manner in which Sturgulewski allegedly anticipates claim 7. Again, the Examiner fails to describe where Sturgulewski teaches a quenching step. The Applicants' review of both Barkdoll and Sturgulewski fails to reveal where either reference teaches quenching.

In page 4 of the Office Action, when discussing the allowable subject matter of claims 10-12, the Examiner states: "the prior art fails to teach and/or suggest the quenching step as claimed by the applicant." Moreover, with respect to the allowability of claim 13 the Examiner also explains that "[t]here is no suggestion of the quenching steps as claimed in the process described by applicant."

Applicant's review of both Barkdoll and Sturgulewski failed to find any disclosure relating to quenching. Since claim 7 includes the step of quenching a coke mass, which the Examiner has admitted is not shown in the prior art, Applicants believe the Examiner has made a clear error in rejecting claim 7 based upon these references. Accordingly, Applicants submit claim 7 is in condition for allowance. Furthermore, since dependent claims 8-12 also depend from claim 7, Applicants believe these claims are also allowable over the cited prior art.

Claims 1 and 14

The Examiner's rejections of claims 1 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), or in the alternative under § 103(a), based upon the disclosure of Sturgulewski and Barkdoll represent a clear error.

The Rejection of Claims 1 and 14 Based Upon Sturgulewski Represent a Clear Error.

Claim 1 sets forth a method of producing blast furnace coke including, in part, the steps of disposing a volume of loose coal into a container; applying a force to the volume of loose coal in the container to produce a volume of compacted coal; disposing the volume of compacted coal into a non-recovery type oven; and heating the volume of compacted coal to produce coke with an apparent specific gravity of about 1.05. Similarly, claim 14 sets forth a method for producing blast furnace coke comprising, in part, the steps of disposing a volume of loose coal into a container; applying force to the volume of loose coal in the container to produce a volume of compacted coal; and disposing the volume of compacted coal into a non-recovery type oven.

In rejecting the claims, the Examiner asserts that Sturgulewski teaches a coal compaction system and method for producing coke in a non-recovery oven. The Examiner acknowledges Sturgulewski does not specifically teach producing coke with an apparent specific gravity of about 1.05. The Examiner further asserts Sturgulewski discloses that "a bed of coal is then inserted into the oven through the charging doors and the surface of the coal bed generates combustible gases due to radiant energy absorbed from the oven door. There is a non-cantilevered coal charging conveyor sled compaction system which compacts the loose coal prior to coking." See the Final Office Action, page 3. Based upon this understanding, however, the Examiner asserts "[t]he coke produced in this system would inherently possess an apparent specific gravity as claimed by applicant absent an evidentiary showing this feature would not be inherent because it has been taught in Sturgulewski that loose coal is compacted and then subjected to a coking oven." *Id.* at page 4. Applicant disagrees that Sturgulewski teaches a compaction system capable of compacting the loose coal prior to coking.

Sturgulewski clearly teaches charging a non-recovery oven with uncompressed coal and then heating the uncompressed coal in the oven as the coal is being compressed. As explained in Sturgulewski at column 3, lines 22-24, "[i]initially, the oven refractory is heated, e.g. to about 2500° F., for example, by a fuel gas burner inserted into an opening (not shown) in an oven door." Sturgulewski continues at lines 26-29, "[a] bed of coal then is inserted into the oven through the charging doors, and the surface of the coal bed immediately generates combustible gases due to the radiant energy absorbed." Moreover, in describing the charging conveyor / compactor, Sturgulewski explains that "[d]ue to the high temperature encountered by the coal charging and compacting means while inside the oven chamber during coal charging and compaction, it is necessary to provide such mechanism with adequate heat protection." See Sturgulewski at column 5, lines 28-32. Applicants' review of Sturgulewski fails to find any teaching of charging the oven with uncompressed coal, compressing the coal in the oven and then heating the compressed coal.

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Clearly, the Examiner has made a clear factual error in reading the disclosure of Sturgulewski, and Sturgulewski actually teaches charging the oven with uncompacted coal and then compacting the coal in the oven as the coal is heated. The Examiner has made a clear factual error in reading Sturgulewski as teaching the charging of an oven with compacted coal. Since claims 1 and 14 both require that the coal be first compressed and then added to the oven, Sturgulewski does not anticipate claims 1 and 14. In addition, since dependent claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 depend from independent claims 1, and dependent claims 15-18 depend from independent claims 1, these dependent claims are also allowable over Surgulewski.

The Rejections to Claims 1 and 14 Based Upon Barkdoll represent a Clear Error

The Examiner has rejected independent claims 1 and 14 based upon the teachings of Barkdoll. In rejecting these claims, the Examiner asserts

[t]he steps as taught in Barkdoll fully anticipates applicants method claims of providing a container the [sic] container would be the charging plate in association with the retractable sidewalls in the chamber. The coking oven is a non-recovery type coke oven, which is used in making the coke. Admittedly the apparent specific gravity has not been specifically taught however, the compaction method taught in Barkdoll imparts the same type of force to the coal, the heating takes place in a coke oven it [sic] would have been obvious if not inherent in the method described in Barkdoll to produce a coke with an apparent specific gravity of about 1.05.

See the Office Action, pages 2-3. Applicant disagrees that Barkdoll teaches charging the coking oven with compacted coal in order to produce coke with an apparent specific gravity of about 1.05.

Barkdoll clearly sets forth a method of producing coke in which the oven is charged with compressed and uncompressed coal. Specifically, in the Summary of the Invention, Barkdoll sets forth a method utilizing a first charging plate and a second charging plate "to yield a resulting coal bed within the oven comprising a compacted coal bed overlying uncompacted coal." See Barkdoll, column 3, lines 34-39. Barkdoll continues: the "uncompacted coal chamber preferably holds from about 5 to about 20 wt. % of the total coal." See Barkdoll, column 7, lines 19-21.

"In relying upon the theory of inherency, the examiner must provide a basis in fact and/or technical reasoning to reasonably support the determination that the allegedly inherent characteristic necessarily flows from the teachings of the applied prior art." Ex parte Levy, 17 USPQ2d 1461, 1464 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1990) (emphasis in original). "Where the claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical in structure or composition, or are produced by identical or substantially identical processes, a prima facie case of either anticipation or obviousness has been established." See MPEP § 2112.01 (citing In re Best, 562 F.2d 1252, 1255, 195 USPQ 430, 433 (CCPA 1977)) (emphasis added). Accordingly, if the process disclosed by the prior art differs from

that set forth in the claims, it follows that the prior art does not necessarily disclose all of the limitations set forth in the claims of the application.

The Examiner has made a clear error in asserting that Barkdoll discloses charging the oven with compacted coal, as set forth in claims 1 and 14. Barkdoll teaches charging the oven with both compacted and uncompacted coal. Since claims 1 and 14 require that the coal be compacted prior to charging the oven, the process set forth in claims 1 and 14 clearly differ from the teachings of Barkdoll Thus, Barkdoll does not inherently teach all of the limitations set forth in claims 1 and 14. Accordingly, the Examiner has made a clear error in rejecting claims 1 and 14 based upon Barkdoll, and independent claims 1 and 14 are allowable over the cited prior art. Moreover, since dependent claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 depend from independent claim 1 and dependent claims 15-18 depend from independent claim 14, these claims are also in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

As set forth above, Applicants assert that the Examiner has made clear errors in rejecting the claims of the pending application. Specifically, as set forth above, the Examiner committed a factual error with respect to the manner in which the teachings of Barkdoll and Sturgulewski relate to charging the oven and quenching a coke mass. Thus, Applicants request that the rejections of claims 1-3, 5-9 and 14-18 and objections to claims 10-13 be withdrawn and the application be passed to issuance. If necessary to affect a timely response, please consider this paper a request for an extension of time, and charge any shortages in fees, or apply any overpayment credits, to Baker & Daniels' Deposit Account No. 02-0387 (26041.50057). However, please do not include the payment of issue fees.

ectfully submittled.

#homas J./Mauch Reg. No. 56,686 BAKER & DANIELS LLP

205 West Jefferson Boulevard, Suite 250

South Bend, IN 46601 Telephone: (574) 234-4149

Fax: (574) 239-1900

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically upon the Complissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, dria, VA/22313-450, on December 13, 2007. served <u>Th∕omas J. Mauch</u> Printed Name Date December 13, 2007

Electronic Acknowledgement Receipt					
EF\$ ID:	2587275				
Application Number:	09846829				
International Application Number:					
Confirmation Number:	4969				
Title of Invention:	Method for producing blast furnace coke through coal compaction in a non-recovery or heat recovery type oven				
First Named Inventor/Applicant Name:	Hardarshan S. Valia				
Customer Number:	27187				
Filer:	Thomas J. Mauch/Rebecca Carlson Thomas J. Mauch ISP00 13-DEC-2007				
Filer Authorized By:					
Attorney Docket Number:					
Receipt Date:					
Filing Date:	01-MAY-2001				
Time Stamp:	15:56:03				
Application Type:	Utility under 35 USC 111(a)				

Payment information:

Submitted with Payment	yes
Payment Type	Deposit Account
Payment was successfully received in RAM	\$1560
RAM confirmation Number	1277
Deposit Account	020387
Authorized User	

The Director of the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayment as follows:

Charge any Additional Fees required under 37 C.F.R. Section 1.21 (Miscellaneous fees and charges)

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Information:					
5	Appeal Brief Filed	ISP0086_PreAppeal_Brief.p	351506	по	5
	Appeal blief Hieu	df	a71bae228bb8r494ea525cabdd8e(517 7f945be0	110	
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6	Fee Worksheet (PTO-06)	fee-info.pdf	8357		
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Warnings:					
Information:					
		Total Files Size (in bytes)	84	12128	

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New Applications Under 35 U.S.C. 111

If a new application is being filed and the application includes the necessary components for a filing date (see 37 CFR 1.53(b)-(d) and MPEP 506), a Filing Receipt (37 CFR 1.54) will be issued in due course and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the filing date of the application.

National Stage of an International Application under 35 U.S.C. 371

If a timely submission to enter the national stage of an international application is compliant with the conditions of 35 U.S.C. 371 and other applicable requirements a Form PCT/DO/EO/903 indicating acceptance of the application as a national stage submission under 35 U.S.C. 371 will be issued in addition to the Filing Receipt, in due course.

New International Application Filed with the USPTO as a Receiving Office

If a new international application is being filed and the international application includes the necessary components for an international filing date (see PCT Article 11 and MPEP 1810), a Notification of the International Application Number and of the International Filing Date (Form PCT/RO/105) will be issued in due course, subject to prescriptions concerning national security, and the date shown on this Acknowledgement Receipt will establish the international filing date of the application.